
ALICE W. STOODLEY.

APRIL 4, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 538.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 538) granting an increase of pension to Alice W. Stoodley, have examined the same and report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$8 to \$12 per month the pension of Alice W. Stoodley, widow of Benjamin H. Stoodley, late of Company K, Eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

It appears from the records of the War Department that Benjamin H. Stoodley served as private in Company K, Eighth Massachusetts Infantry, from September 1, 1862, to August 7, 1863, when honorably discharged. He had no hospital record. He filed a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, and was allowed pension under that law for rheumatism, disease of heart, piles, and chronic diarrhea. He applied also under the general law March 8, 1890, alleging that he contracted rheumatism and chronic diarrhea, causing piles, about June, 1863, but his application was rejected December 16, 1901, on the ground of no hospital record of his disabilities and no medical evidence of treatment in service or after discharge prior to 1882.

Several comrades testified to service origin of chronic diarrhea, piles, and rheumatism, and neighbors testified to continuance from discharge to 1882. Soldier stated that he was treated in service by the surgeon of a New York regiment, whose evidence he could not obtain, and he also declared that the physician who treated him prior to 1882 died some years ago. From 1882 continuance is shown by medical evidence.

Soldier died July 4, 1899, the cause of his death being chronic Bright's disease. Claimant is now receiving the pension of \$8 per month provided by the act of June 27, 1890. She has made no claim under the general law. She was married to the soldier February 18, 1866, a short while after the war, and is now 67 years of age.

There is no evidence showing directly that soldier's death was the result of his military service. It would seem highly probable that the

diseases which the evidence indicates he contracted in the Army were sufficient, inducing causes for the Bright's disease of which he died.

It is shown in evidence that claimant possesses no property. She is an invalid, half blind from senile cataracts, and physically incapacitated for earning a livelihood. She is dependent on her pension and charitable aid for her support. Your committee are of opinion that the facts in this case will warrant an increase of pension to the general-law rate of \$12 per month, and therefore report the bill back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 9, before the word "dollars," insert the word "twelve."

